UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2000/163
28 April 2000

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 18

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Letter dated 27 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I would be most grateful if you could arrange for the circulation as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 18, of the Conclusions and Framework of Technical Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean*, adopted by the regional meeting of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, held in Quito from 29 November to 1 December 1999. The originals of the above-mentioned documents are on file in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

(Signed) Luis GALLEGOS-CHIRIBOGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is reproduced as received, in English only.

Annex

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

Representatives of Governments of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, observers representing National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations regional and sub-regional organizations and NGOs participating in the workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 29 November to 1 December 1999 :

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interelatedness of all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political, social including the right to development.

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which identified steps whereby States would improve the promotion and protection of human rights and the agreed conclusions in the ECOSOC session in 1998.

Recognizing that cultural diversity co-exists with many common and shared values and goals in such a vast region.

Recognizing the importance of National Action Plans for the promotion and protection of human rights as recommended by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Expressing appreciation for the contributions of National Human Rights Institutions in the region and in particular for their special contribution in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Recognizing the important contribution made by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society in the promotion and protection of all human rights.

Mindful of the importance of human rights education within the UN Decade for human rights education as an effective strategy for the prevention of human rights violations and for creating a culture of peace and human rights in this region.

Recognizing the need to develop effective strategies for the implementation of the right to development as well as economic, social and cultural rights in the region, keeping into account national conditions, the international context and international cooperation.

Recognizing the importance in the promotion and protection of rights of women and the introduction of a gender perspective in public policies and technical cooperation programmes.

Recognizing also the need for fullest protection and promotion of the rights of children, indigenous peoples, as well as those of other vulnerable groups.

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the American Convention on Human Rights and the 20th Anniversary of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, recognise the contribution of the Inter-American Human Rights System in the realization of these rights.

Recognizing the importance of technical cooperation in the field of human rights and the exchanging of experiences for the strengthening of national human rights capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region.

Hereby:

Recognize the importance of developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with national conditions and benefiting from regional cooperation and the sharing of experiences.

Recognize the desirability of developing national human rights plans of action and invites all Governments which have not already done so to consider initiating action to develop a national human rights plan of action, in accordance with their national priorities and through a process of consultation with national entities.

Express appreciation to the Government of Ecuador for hosting this workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region and for the statement made by H.E. Mr. Benjamin Ortiz Brennan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador.

Express appreciation to the OHCHR for the organization and conducting of the Workshop.

Commend the discussions held during the workshop on :

- National plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national human rights capacities;
- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- National Human Rights Education;
- Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;
- Promotion of children, women, indigenous people rights, as well as those of vulnerable groups.

Affirm that regional workshops, which enable an exchange of information and experiences, are valuable in enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening national capacities in the field of human rights.

Recognize that the implementation of national human rights plans of action significantly advances the promotion and protection of the human rights and that broad national participation has a key role in the development, implementation and evaluation of national human rights plans of action.

Call upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to make available upon request by State Members, appropiate resources, technical assistance and advisory services for the purposes of facilitating the elaboration and the implementation of national human rights plans of action and the development of national human rights capacities.

Adopt a framework for cooperation in the Latin American and Caribbean Region and commit themselves to implementing the following regional, sub-regional and national activities as set out in the Annex to these Conclusions and commit themselves to meet next year in a date to be determined following consultations with the Governments of the region, with a view to reviewing progress made in the implementation of the regional framework.

Done in Quito, 1 December 1999

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FRAMEWORK OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

Project Title: Strengthening of National Capacities for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Initial duration: 1 year

Implementing Agency: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Governments in cooperation with international and regional organizations, sub-regional and national institutions and NGOs.

Total estimated budget: $880,000 (excluding 13 per cent programme support costs)

Source(s) of funding: - Regular budget, Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the area of Human Rights; In-kind contributions by host countries of programme activities and other funds within the system.

II. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

At the request of Member States, this document is intended to provide a framework for the regional technical cooperation programme discussed during the Regional Workshop held in Quito, Ecuador, from 29 November to 1 December 1999. The areas of cooperation proposed in this document draw on the discussions held during the Quito Workshop as well as on the experience of OHCHR in the context of its activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

An annual inter-governmental workshop for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Latin America and Caribbean region should be the key forum for discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation, including through the OHCHR technical cooperation programme. A progress report on technical cooperation activities should be made available by the OHCHR to future workshops so that Member States can assess the progress made in implementing the programme and provide further direction.

The Permanent Missions in Geneva of the Latin American and Caribbean countries may regularly hold meetings with a view to take stock of the activities within the region.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

At the request of Member States, the programme will contribute to the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean and be a means of facilitating the development and implementation of national human rights action plans.

The Programme will contribute to promote the ratification of international human rights instruments with a view to ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by all segments of the Latin American and Caribbean society.

IV. AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Strengthening of National Capacities ($160,000)

Objective:

At the request of Member States, national capacities will be strengthened in order to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing practices and national experiences in connection with national plans of action for human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Activity (b): At the request of Member States, the OHCHR will provide technical cooperation and advisory services* for the development, implementation and evaluation of national action plans and related activities aimed at strengthening national capacities;

Activity (c): Holding of intergovernmental meetings at a regional or subregional** level with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs, to share best practices and difficulties in the development, implementation and evaluation of national action plans.

2. Human Rights Education ($150,000)

Objective:

At the request of Member States, national capacities will be strengthened to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action and other activities for human rights education.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing national plans of action and specific programmes or activities for human rights education in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Activity (b): At the request of Member States, the OHCHR will provide technical cooperation and assistance* for the development of national capacities for human rights education, including the holding of workshops to consider such activities;

Activity (c): Holding a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs to share best practices and difficulties n the development of national action plans and related activities;

3. National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights ($200,000)

Objective:

At the request of Member States and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, capacities of national human rights institutions (or potential capacities of those in the process of being established) will be strengthened - including their capacity to promote and protect all human rights and incorporating a gender perspective.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing practices and experiences in connection with national human rights institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Activity (b): At the request of Member States and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the OHCHR will provide technical cooperation and assistance* for the development/strengthening of any such institution;

Activity (c): Holding in cooperation with national institutions and Member States, regional and/or subregional workshops on the role and functions of national institutions in the promotion and protection of all human rights.

4. Strategies for the Realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ($190,000)

Objective:

At the request of Member States, obstacles to the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights will be identified in the regional or sub-regional context and national and regional capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights will be strengthened.

Activity (a): Holding of a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of national economic planning authorities, international development and financial institutions as well as development cooperation experts where obstacles to the realization of those rights in Latin America and the Caribbean will be identified and relevant action to strengthen national capacities and encourage international cooperation for the promotion and realization of those rights will be proposed.

Activity (b): At the request of Member States, the OHCHR will provide technical cooperation and assistance* for the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities in these areas.

5. Promotion of the rights of women and other vulnerable groups ($ 180,000)

Objective:

At the request of Member States, obstacles to the realization of the rights of women and other vulnerable groups will be identified in the regional context and national and regional capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights will be strengthened.

Activity (a): Holding of a regional workshop** with governments, and/or national workshops* at a national or sub-regional level, at the request of Member States, with the participation of national institutions, judges and lawyers, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and NGOs and experts in these areas with a view to identifying obstacles to the realization of those rights in Latin America and the Caribbean and propose relevant action to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights.

Activity (b): At the request of Member States, the OHCHR will provide technical cooperation and assistance* for the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities in these areas.

---

* *Activities at the national level are not costed.*

** *Venues of regional workshops will be determined in consultation with Member States.*